

## CLAIMS

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1. Excipient for dry powder inhalation preparations comprising granules made of primary carrier material, which 5 granules break down during inhalation in such a manner that they give a concentration of primary carrier material at stage 2 of the twin stage impinger determined by the antrone reaction of at least 5%.
2. Excipient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the 10 concentration of primary carrier material at stage 2 of the twin stage impinger determined by the antrone reaction is at least 10%.
3. Excipient as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the 15 concentration of primary carrier material at stage 2 of the twin stage impinger determined by the antrone reaction is at least 20%.
4. Excipient as claimed in claims 1-3, obtainable by granulating a primary carrier material in a fluid binding agent and drying the granules thus obtained.
- 20 5. Excipient as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fluid binding agent is an aqueous solution of the primary carrier material.
6. Excipient as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fluid binding agent is a solvent, in particular ethanol.
- 25 7. Excipient as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fluid binding agent is water.
8. Excipient as claimed in claims 4-7, wherein the drying is performed in an oven.
9. Excipient as claimed in claims 4-7, wherein the 30 drying is performed while the granules are kept in motion, such as in a fluid bed dryer.
10. Excipient according to claims 1-9, wherein the particle size of the granules lies between 50-1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

11. Excipient according to claims 1-10, wherein the particle size of the granules lies between 200-500 $\mu$ m.

12. Excipient according to claims 1-11, wherein the primary particle median geometric size of the granules lies 5 in the range 1-170  $\mu$ m.

13. Excipient according to claims 1-12, wherein the primary particle size median geometric size of the granules lies in the range 1-15  $\mu$ m.

14. Excipient according to claims 1-13, wherein the primary carrier material is a monosaccharide, such as glucose, fructose, mannose; a polyol derived from these monosaccharides, such as sorbitol, manitol or their monohydrates; a disaccharide, such as lactose, maltose, sucrose, a polyol derived from these disaccharides, such as 15 lactitol, manitol, or their monohydrates; an oligo or polysaccharide, such as dextrins and starches.

15. Excipient according to claims 1-14, wherein the primary carrier material is a crystalline sugar such as glucose, lactose, fructose, manitol or sucrose.

20 16. Excipient according to claim 15, wherein the primary carrier material of the granules is lactose.

17. A dry powder inhalation formulation which 25 contains a pharmacologically active component and an excipient according to claims 1-16, for delivery of the active component to the lungs.

18. A dry powder inhalation formulation according to claim 17, in which the active component is selected from the group consisting of steroids, bronchodilators, cromoglycate, proteins, peptides and mucolytics.

30 19. A dry powder inhalation formulation according to claim 17, in which the active component is selected from the group consisting of hypnotics, sedatives, analgesics, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-histamines, anti-convulsents,

muscle relaxants, anti-spasmodics, anti-bacterials, anti-biotics, cardiovascular agents, hypoglycaemic agents.

20. Method for producing an excipient as claimed in claims 1-17, comprising granulating a primary carrier material in a fluid binding agent and drying the granules thus obtained. ~~Method~~

21. ~~Excipient~~ as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fluid binding agent is an aqueous solution of the primary carrier material.

22. ~~Excipient~~ as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fluid binding agent is a solvent, in particular ethanol.

23. ~~Excipient~~ as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fluid binding agent is water.

24. ~~Excipient~~ as claimed in claims 20-23, wherein the drying is performed in an oven.

25. ~~Excipient~~ as claimed in claims 20-23, wherein the drying is performed while the granules are kept in motion, such as in a fluid bed dryer.

26. Lactose granules for use in dry powder inhalation preparations, characterized in that the granules break down during inhalation in such a manner that they give a concentration of primary carrier material at stage 2 of the twin stage impinger determined by the antrone reaction of at least 5%, preferably at least 10%, more preferably at least 20%.

27. Use of an excipient as claimed in claims 20-25 for the preparation of a dry powder inhalation preparation for the treatment of diseases of the respiratory tract.